

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; born on February 5, 1934, in Mobile, Alabama, American baseball legend and Major League Baseball (MLB) Hall of Famer Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron passed away on January 22, 2021, at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS; also known as "Hammerin' Hank" and "Hammer," Hank Aaron spent a significant portion of his trailblazing career in Wisconsin, making his minor league debut with the Eau Claire Bears in 1952 and his MLB debut with the Milwaukee Braves in 1954, and ending his career with the Milwaukee Brewers in 1976; and

WHEREAS; after getting his professional start with the Indianapolis Clowns, rising through the minor leagues, and entering the major leagues, Hank Aaron quickly became one of baseball's star players, renowned for his impressive batting average and feared by pitchers for his uncanny ability to hit home runs; and

WHEREAS; with three home runs and a batting average of 0.393, Hank Aaron led the Milwaukee Braves to their 1957 World Series win against the New York Yankees – the only World Series title the franchise would win during their time in Milwaukee – and, in 1988, he was inducted into the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS; on April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron famously hit his 715th home run, breaking Babe Ruth's career home run record of 714, and he later set a new MLB record – which remained unbroken until 2007 – with his 755th and final career home run at Milwaukee County Stadium on July 20, 1976; and

WHEREAS; it is important to remember that Hank Aaron's life and career unfolded in the context of the civil rights movement and under the dark cloud of Jim Crow laws, and that, despite his talent and fame, he often faced outrageous racism, discrimination, and threats, and the derision of his accomplishments, that Black Americans have historically endured; and

WHEREAS; as one of the earliest and most prominent Black voices in the world of American professional sports, Hank Aaron was a hero to many, and he serves as a role model to this day for his dedication not only to the sport, but to addressing racism in athletics and the advancement of civil rights and opportunities for Black Americans; and

WHEREAS; the Hank Aaron State Trail, a 14-mile pedestrian and bike trail connecting Milwaukee's scenic Lake Michigan lakefront with downtown and beyond, embodies his life's work, weaving through and uniting the city's many diverse neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS; today, on what would have been his 87th birthday, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in reflecting on the exceptional life and legacy of Hank Aaron, and celebrates the great strides he made, both on and off the field, in Wisconsin and throughout the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim February 5, 2021, as

HANK AARON DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be
affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of
Madison this 5th day of February 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Evers".
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR



By the Governor:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas La Follette".
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State